After a tumultuous 2011, the men’s lacrosse team is looking forward to this season as an opportunity to clean up its off-field image while reaching new levels of on-field success.

Last year’s squad finished with a respectable 12-8 record that included big wins over rivals Weddington and Marvin Ridge, but some of the season’s achievements were lost amid negative incidents involving numerous team members. Because of this, the players have begun working on “Solution Revolution,” a program that is intended to improve their character and image.

As part of the program team members stay after school and assist teachers with tasks such as stacking chairs or cleaning up classrooms. They serve as a volunteer crew, helping where they are needed. The players say that this after-school volunteer work has helped them grow closer as a team and also has improved their image in the eyes of classmates and opponents.

“I believe it will have a positive impact on the team because we are helping our image but also helping our school,” said junior attack Kevin Jette, who has netted seven goals so far this season.

With its image issues being taken care of, the team can focus on its on-field performance. The team got off to a fast start this season, playing well at the annual Jamboree. The squad then went on a winning streak that included a tough victory over Lake Norman Charter. Dominating many of its opponents, the team’s only two losses thus far have both been one goal games, one against yearly power Marvin Ridge, and the other against McCallie High School, a strong program from Georgia.

Although last year ended with a disappointing one goal loss to Providence, this year’s team is determined to play hard all year and contend for a state championship. Key players Lane Beach and Adam Hebert graduated last spring, but Jette believes that this year’s squad has the talent to replace them.

“We have many leaders on our team such as Tyler Jankun, Tim Egan, Ethan Desmond, Connor Flynn, and Nick Sawyer. We also have many solid young players that will help us increase our depth at every position,” said Jette.

Some of these underclassmen who are expected to contribute are freshman Jake Priester and sophomore Peyton Swancy. Juniors Brad Nelson and Ryan Manion are returning players from last year who are expected to help solidify the team using their experience and talent.